

THE <sup>3</sup>  
PRINCIPLES  
OF  
CHRISTIAN RELIGION  
In Twenty Questions and  
*Answers :*

Whereunto is Added,  
A Compendious History of  
the most Memorable passages of HOLY  
SCRIPTURE by way of Questions  
and Answers, for the use and benefit of  
the Inhabitants of the Parish of WOT-  
TON in Oxford shire.

By JOHN HOFFMAN  
B. D. *Minister of Gods word.*

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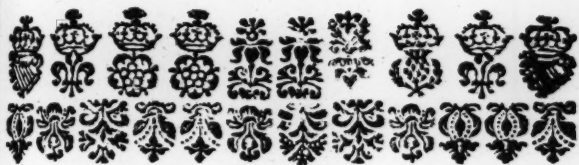
1 TIM: 4. 8.  
*Godliness is Profitable to all things.*

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OXFORD,  
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T O

My Beloved Neighbours and Pari-  
shioners, the Inhabitants of the  
*Towne and Parish of*

W O T T O N In  
Oxford-shire.

*Beloved in the Lord,*

I.



T hath been my grea-  
test care, and constant  
endeavour, ever since  
by Gods providence I  
was called to be your

Pastour, how I might withstand, and  
hinder the growth of *sinnes*, which Prov. 14.  
*are a reproach to any People*: and how 34.  
to build you up in the *saving know-* Ioh. 17.3.  
*ledge of Iesus Christ, which is eternall*  
*life.* To which purpose in the ordi-

## THE EPISTLE

nary course of my Ministry, as you know, I have gone over the principles of Religion, by way of Catechizing more then once, that so I might, with the Lords assistance and blessing upon my labours, lay a sure and a sound foundation, in the tender hearts of the yonger sort of people, who are so sweetly exhorted by Solomon, to know and to remember their Creator now in the daies of their youth.

2. It hath of late much troubled my spirit, what good course I might take in these evill and unsetled times, to settle and establish you in the Truth of the Gospell, *to hold fast that which you have received, that no man may take your Crowne:* and how to Preach the Word unto you, that all may profit, and upon my seeking of God in private to direct mee, and after much selfe-disputing, I resolved at last, to look beyond all discouragements, and frivolous exceptions of persons disaffected to Truth and



## DEDICATORY.

and Holinesse, and in the integrity and simplicity of my heart, to adventure upon this plaine and easy way.

First to Compose and Print a short Catechise, containing the fundamentalls of our Christian Religion, which being known and understood, will enable you to give an account to *every man, that shall aske you a reason* <sup>1 Pet. 3. 15.</sup> *of the hope that is in you, with meeknes and feare.* Sermons without the knowledge and understanding of fundamentall Truths, are as if you should set a Browne Loafe and a Cheese, before *Infants* that call for <sup>Heb. 5. 13. 14.</sup> *Milke.*

Secondly, for as much as it is a sad thing to consider, how many heare Gods word, it may be every Lords day, yet understand little and remember lesse, having never been acquainted with the Historicall part of the Scripture to any purpose, I have therefore very briefly contracted, and set downe the most memorable

## THE EPISTLE

Historicall passages thereof, the knowledge whereof, will, I am confident, be very helpfull unto you, to understand Gods mind, delivered in those comfortable Doctrines, which upon the explication of any Text, are by worthy Ministers of Christ commended unto you.

Thirdly, because without the Lords blessing nothing can doe us good, I have therefore in the latter end of this little Manuall, set downe a short direction for younger Christians to pray by.

There are Foure holy duties, which I heartily commend unto you, and intreat you to practice.

1. To read Gods word much in private, and to pray with your Families, the blessing of God is upon such Families.

2. To take heed of prophaning the Lords Day, and instead of unnecessary worldly works, or sinfull recreations, to call your Children and Servants after Dinner together before

## DEDICATORY.

fore the second Sermon, to give you an account of some part of the Catechise, and of the History of the Bible, which will put yours and their hearts into a holy posture for the publique exercises of the Church.

3. I would intreat you to examine all your Doctrines you heare, by the Word of God, it is a way very pleasing to God, as we see in the Example of the *Noble Bereans*.

4. I would desire you to search after, and to be well settled in the Doctrine of justification, and of the Sacraments. Other duties there are, I should speake of, but I would willingly be as short as I could. Now the Lord Jesus blesse you and yours, and so appeare upon you, and my labours amongst you, that in the day of judgement we may not be ashamed but stand with comfort before the Tribunall seat of Christ, and receive an *Euge* well done good and faithfull servants, enter into your  
Ma-

# THE EPIST.

Masters joy; Which shall be the dai-  
ly prayer of

*Your most affectionate*

*Friend and Pastour*

*to serve you in Christ.*

JOHN HOFFMAN.

*From my Study*  
*at Wotton*  
*Feb. 16. 1653.*





# *A Short Catechisme.*

O R

Twenty Questions and Answers,  
Containing the first Elements  
*or Principles of our*  
CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

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The 1. Question.

**W**HAT is every one by Nature?

The Answer.

Every one by Nature is a poore miserable sinner, not able of himselfe to doe any thing pleasing to God. *Rom. 7. 24.*

Q. 2.

*How came wee to be so wretched?*

A. 1. By the guilt of the first sinne committed by *Adam* and *Eve* in *Paradise*.

2. By originall sinne, which is not only

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a want of Gods image, consisting in holiness and righteousness, but also a proneness and inclination to all sinnes.

3. By our daily Actuall transgressions in thought word and deed. *Psal. 51. 5. Rem: 5. 12.*

Q. 3.

*What is sinne?*

A. Sinne is a breach of Gods Law, making us guilty of Gods curse, and heavy judgements temporally and eternally. *1 Ioh: 3. 4. Gal: 3. 10.*

Q. 4.

*How may wee be freed from this miserable condition?*

A. Only by Jesus Christ, the alone Mediator 'twixt God and Man. *1 Tim: 2. 5.*

Q. 5.

*What is God?*

A. God is a spirit infinite in power, justice, and mercy, distinguished into three Persons, God the Father, God the Sonne, and God the Holy Ghost, and these three are one, *1 Ioh: 5. 7.*

Q. 6.

*What believest thou concerning God the Father?*

A. I believe that he created me and all the World out of nothing, and that by his Almighty providence, he upholds, and most wisely

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wisely disposes of all things to his own glory, and the good of his Church, *Heb: 11.*

*3. Math: 10.29. Prov: 16.33.*

Q: 7.

*What believest thou concerning Iesus Christ?*

A. I believe that he being God from everlasting, took mans Nature upon him in the fulnesse of time, being conceived by the Holy Ghost, borne of the Virgin Mary: That he fulfilled the Law of God for mee, and suffered much misery, the death of the Crosse, and Hells Torments: That he was buried, and rose againe the third day: That he ascended up into Heaven, to the highest glory, and that he shall ere long, come in great glory, to judge the quick and the dead. *Phil: 2.7,8,9.*

Q. 8.

*How many Natures hath Christ, and how many Offices did he undertake for us?*

A. Christ hath two Natures; the humane, and the Divine Nature, *Ioh: 1. 14.*

*1 Tim: 3 16.*

And he undertook three Offices for us.

1 To be our Prophet to teach us.

2 Our High Priest to dye and to pay for us.

3 Our Heavenly King to rule us by his word and spirit, *Apo: 1. 5.*

Q.

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Q: 9.

*What believest thou concerning the Holy Ghost?*

*A.* I believe that the Holy Ghost is God, and that he is sent to mee, and to all Gods Children, to guide us, to teach us, to make us Holy, and to comfort us in all our afflictions. *Ioh, 14.26.*

Q: 10.

*How may we get God to be our God, and Father?*

*A.* By Faith in Jesus Christ alone, *Ioh: 3.16.*

Q: 11.

*What is Faith?*

*A.* A precious gift of God, whereby I perswade and assure my selfe, that God for Christs sake, hath justified mee, and will accept of mee, imputing Christs righteousness to mee, and imputing my sinnes to him, *2 Cor: 5.21.*

Q: 12.

*How may we get and increase Faith?*

*A.* 1. By the hearing of Gods word of true and faithfull Preachers, *Rom: 10.17.*

2. By Prayer, asking of God in the name of Jesus Christ, things lawfull and needfull for soule and body, according to the Lords prayer.

3. By the Sacraments.

Q: 4.



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Q: 13.

*What is a Sacrament?*

A. An outward signe and seale of the Covenant of Grace, *Rom: 4. 11.*

What the Covenant of Grace is, see *Heb: 10. 16, 17.*

Q: 14.

*How many Sacraments have we Christians?*

A. Two only: Baptisme and the Lords Supper, *1 Cor: 10. 2, 3.* To these Sacraments all those have right, to whom the promises are made; upon this ground wee Baptize the Infants of Christian Parents, and when afterwards they come to the years of discretion, and can examine themselves, wee also admit them to the Lords Supper, *Act. 2. 39, 1 Cor: 11. 28.*

Q: 15.

*What is required of one that will receive the Communion?*

A. He that will receive the Communion, must not be utterly ignorant, nor scandalous in his life, but must carefully examine and try aforehand:

1. His knowledge of Christ.
2. Faith.
3. Repentance, which is a change from worse to better, upon true sorrow for sinne.
4. Love and Charity.

5. His obedience and thankfulnesse.

Q: 16.

*What is it to eate the flesh, and drink the blood of Christ in the Sacrament?*

A. To believe and to assure my selfe, that what the Lord Jesus hath done or suffered, he hath done it also for my soule, and that I am really, spiritually united unto him, *Joh: 6. 54, 63.*

Q: 17.

*What is expected of us, after we have received the Lords Supper?*

A. 1. To try what spirituall strength and comfort we have gotten by it.

2. To pay our vowes.

3. To increase daily in Grace.

4. To praise God, that we have a place in Gods Church among his people.

*Psal: 116. 12, 13.*

Q: 18.

*What dost thou meane by the Church?*

A. The company of all Gods Elect, that have been, are, or shall be called out of the World to be Saints, *Acts 2. 47.*

Q: 19.

*What are the true Christians constant exercises?*

A. 1. To keep a good Conscience, *Acts 24. 16.*

2. To be much in Prayer and Fasting.

3. To read and heare Gods word.
4. To keep the Lords day.
5. To doe good to all , but specially to Godly Christians.
6. To doe as I would be done by, according to the Morall Law, the Ten Commandements, which are the Rule of mans life.
7. To repent daily of our daily failings and in all these duties to believe, that God will accept of me for Christs sake alone, without whom our best performances are sinfull and abominable, *Rom. 14. 23. Heb: 11. 6.*

Q: 20.

*What are the Christians priviledges?*

- A. 1. Tis a great priviledge to be a Member of the true Church.
- 2 To have Union & Communion with Christ and his Church.
- 3 To have the forgivenesse of my sinnes sealed to me in the bloud of Christ,
- 4 To dye in the Faith of Christ.
- 5 To be raised up at the last day to eternall Glory.
- 6 To stand at Christs Right hand, and to iudge the World and Angells.
- 7 That when the wicked shall goe away with the Divells to Hell Fire for ever: I shall with all Gods Elect follow Christ

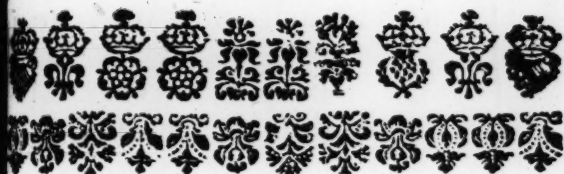
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Christ into Heavenly Glory, to see  
God Face to Face, singing Hallelujah  
to him that sits upon the Throne, and  
to the Lamb for ever more. *Math: 25.*  
*46. Ioh: 5.28.*

*Glory be to the Lord.*

*AMEN.*





*The History of the Bible in  
Questions and Answers.*

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GENESIS.

The 1. Question.

**W**HAT is contained in this first Book  
of Scripture?

*The Answer.*

A. In *Genesis* is contained the History of  
the three first Patriarchs;  
Of *Adam* before the flood;  
Of *Noah* in the flood;  
Of *Abraham* after the flood.

And the History also of the other Three  
great Patriarchs, *Isaak*, *Jacob*, and *Joseph*.

Q: 2.

*What was done before the Flood?*

A. God created Heaven and Earth, A-  
dam

*dam and Eve, and all things in Six daies out of nothing, and rested the seaventh day.*

- 2 God prepared Paradise for our first Parents, and put them therein, and for sin turned them out againe.
- 3 *Adam* in the state of Innocency according to the Wisdome bestowed upon him gave fit names to all Creatures.
- 4 *Cain* killed his brother *Abel*.
- 5 *Enoch* walked with God, and was taken up into Heaven.
- 6 The rest of those lesser Patriarks invented diverse Arts cap:5.

Q: 3.

*What was done in the daies of Noah?*

- 1 *A.* The whole World was drowned by a floud.
- 2 The cause was man's sinne, and want of Repentance upon warning given by *Noah*.
- 3 *Noah* and his Family, with some Beasts of all kinds were preserved in the Ark.
- 4 The Raine-bow was given for a Token that God would never destroy the World by Water any more.
- 5 The building of the Tower of *Babel* undertaken by some, and punished.

Q. 4.

*What canst thou say of Abraham?*

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d.
- 1 *A. Abraham* was called by God out of his owne Country, to sojourn in the Land of Canaan, which God afterwards gave to him and to his posterity for an Inheritance.
  - 2 He entertained Angells unawares, and prayd for Sodom and Gomorah, and hath a Sonne by *Sarah*.
  - 3 He met with many afflictions in his Travells to and fro with his Wife, *Sarai*, his maid *Hagar*, and his kinsman *Lot*.
  - 4 He fought a great Battell with the assistance of his own Servants against the heathen Kings, wherein he obtained the victory, and recovered his kinsman *Lot*, that had been taken captive, and at his returne *Melchisedeck* blesteth him, to whom *Abraham* paid Tithes of the spoyles taken in that war.
  - 5 *Abraham* built many Altars to God, is carefull to teach his Family the knowledge of God, and is willing to sacrifice his sonne *Isaak*.
  - 6 He had many troubles about *Ismaell Hagar's* sonne.
  - 7 He purchased a piece of land to be a burying place for his family, and there *Sarah* was buried.
  - 8 He took great care to have his sonne *Isaak* married in a Godly way.

- 9 After the death of *Sarah*, he Married againe, and had divers children.
- 10 He dyed and was honourably buried.

## Q. 5.

*What canst thou say of Isaak?*

- 1 *A.* *Isaak* feared God, as *Abraham* his father had done.
- 2 He loved *Rebecca* his Wife.
- 3 He was a great man among the *Philistims*, rich in Cattell and Goods, and had much contention with the *Philistims* about digging of Wells.
- 4 In his old Age he blessed *Jacob* and *Esau*: he dyed and was buried by his Sonnes.

## Q. 6.

*What canst thou say of Iacob?*

- 1 *A.* He fled into a strange land for feare of his brother *Esau*.
- 2 In his Travells being once benighted, and lodging all night in the field, he had a sweet dreame, wherein he saw a ladder that reached from Earth to Heaven, the Angells of God, descending and ascending.
- 3 He vowed a vow, and is entertained by his Unkle *Laban*, to have the care and oversight of his Cattell.
- 4 He had many troubles with his Unkle whose two Daughters *Leah* and *Rachel* he married.



5 He had twelve Sonnes and one Daughter, and grew rich by Gods blessing upon him.

6 He returned to his Fathers house with all he had gotten at his Unckles, and by the way in his returne, he met with shrode troubles.

1 His Unckle pursued after him, and charged him with theft.

2 His brother *Esa* came with an Army against him.

3 His Wife *Rachel* died in Childbed.

4 His Daughter *Dinah* is ravished.

5 His Sonnes *Simeon* and *Levi* committed Murther.

6 His eldest Sonne committed Incest, and his sonne *Iudas* whoredome.

After he came home and was settled his troubles about *Ioseph* began.

In his Old Age he removed with all his Family into Egypt, and died there, and his body was brought back into the land of Canaan and buried.

Q: 7.

What canst thou say of *Ioseph*?

*Ioseph* is a worthy patterne of Piety and Holinesse, he feared God, and took great care for his old Father *Iacob*, and for all his family.

He was sold into Egypt by his own brethren

- thren, and was there wrongfully imprisoned, but by Gods wonderfull providence, he is advanced to great honour, and became the Father and preserver of the Land in time of Famine.
- 3 He was married in Egypt, and had two Sonnes: he dyed and is embalmed.

## E X O D U S.

## Q. 1.

**W**HAT is this Book called Exodus?

A. Because it containeth the History of Israels going out of the Land of Egypt by the mighty hand of God.

## Q. 2.

What became of Jacobs posterity after the death of Ioseph?

- 1 A. They were miserably oppressed by the Egyptians.
- 2 By command from the King, all the male children were drowned as soon as they were borne, the Midwives shewed much pitty towards them.
- 3 Moses an Infant is miraculously preserved, and bred up by King Pharaoh's own Daughter.
- 4 Moses and Aaron are called, and sent to the

the King to let Israel depart quietly out of the Land.

5 *Pharao* hardned his heart, and refused to let them goe, for which he is punished with Nine plagues, which are these :

- 1 All the waters of the Land were turned into bloud, God gave them bloud to drink for their cruelty towards the Israelitish Infants.
- 2 God punished the land by Froggs.
- 3 By Lice.
- 4 By noysome Flyes.
- 5 Murraine on Beasts, and Boyles on Men.
- 6 By terrible haile thunder and lightning.
- 7 By Locusts.
- 8 By dreadfull darknesse.
- 9 By killing the first Borne.

Q: 3.

*What became of Israell?*

- 1 A. None of those Plagues touched them.
- 2 They goe out of Egypt in hast.
- 3 The Passeover is instituted.
- 4 They come to the Red Sea.

Q. 4.

*What did God doe for them there and afterwards?*

- 1 He divided the Sea for them, and they went on foot through it, and the Egyptians

tians following, the waters returned and drowned them all.

- 2 He led them by *Moses* into the *Wildernesse*, and gave them the Law on Mount *Sirai*: and there they having grievously sinned by committing Idolatry, at *Moses* his prayer for them are pardoned.
- 3 He commanded them to set up the *Tabernacle*, and gave them Lawes about Sacrifices.

Q. 5.

*How were they maintained in the Wildernesse?*

- 1 A. God gave them *Manna* from heaven, and water out of a Rock.
- 2 Their shoes add Garments did not weare out for Forty years.

Q. 6.

*How did Moses governe such a multitude in the Wildernesse?*

- 1 A. He appointed Magistrates and Officers under him by the countell of his Father in Law,
- 2 God usually appeared to *Moses* to direct him.
- 3 He had the Oracle of *Urim* and *Thumim*, to ask counsell of God by.
- 4 The Lord went along with his people, and led them by a cloud by day, and by a Pillar of Fire by night.

## LE VITICUS.

## The Question.

**W** Hy is this booke called *Leviticus*?

**A.** Because it containeth the Lawes and dutyes of the Levites or Ministers of God under the Law before the comming of Christ in the flesh. -- Read often the 26. chapter of this booke.

## NUMBERS.

## Q: 1.

**W** Hy is this booke called *Numbers*?

- A. 1.** Because all the Males from 20. yeares and upward among the Israelites were numbred in the wildernesse by *Moses* at Gods commmand.
2. Because Israels murmurings and punishments in the wildernesse are here set downe in order.
  3. Because their severall stations and removalls in the wildernesse are here numbred.

Q: 2.

*Which were the great Rebellions of Israel in the wilderness?*

*A.* Their Rebellions against God, against Moses, and Aron were many; but three of them are most remarkable.

1. That of Miriam, for which she is punished with leprosy.
2. That of all the people, upon the returne of the spies out of the land of Canaan.
3. That of Corah, Dathan and Abiram, whom the earth swallowed up, and all their company.

Q: 3.

*What became of Aaron the first high Priest under the Law?*

*A.* He dyed and was buried in the wilderness, and his Sonne Eleazar succeeded him.

Q: 4.

*What wars had Israel in the wilderness?*

*A.* They had warres with the Amalekites, and with the Midianites, where we have the history of Balaam, and of the zeale of Phineas, and of a great plague among the Israelits, for committing whoredome.

Q: 5.

*What other memorable things have you in this booke?*

A:

A: 1. The 7<sup>3</sup> Elders prophesied.

2. The brazen Serpent is set up.
3. The Levites are numbered, and divers cases in law determined, as that of Zelophebads daughters.
4. Moses is forewarned of his death, and his successor is named, to wit *Ioshua*.
5. The two Tribes and a halfe obtaine the land on this side Jordan for an inheritance, but with this condition, to assist the other Tribes till they also could be settled in their inheritances.

## DEUTERONOMY.

**W**

*Hat canst thou say of this booke?*

1. This booke is called Deuteronomy that is to say a second law, because it contains

a repetition } 

1. Of lawes formerly given.
2. Of mercyes formerly received.

2. This booke is full of sweet admonitions and exhortations to Israel, to be sincere and constant in Gods worship and service.

3. This booke containeth *Moses* his swan-like song, his blessing and prophecy, his death and buriall, and *Ioshua's* succession.

## JOSHUAH.

**VV**

The Question.

*Hat readeſt thou in this booke?*

- A:* 1. The history of the warres of Canaan.  
 2. The history of Israels going over Jordan as on dry land, the waters giving way to them in a wonderfull manner.  
 3. The Circumcision in Gilgall.  
 4. Christ appeared to *Ioshuah* as an armed man.  
 5. The storming and taking of the City Jericho, and the saving of *Rahab* the harlot.  
 6. The trouble about the City *Ai*, and *Achan*, who was the cause of it.  
 7. At *Ioshuas* prayer the sunne stood still a whole day, that Israell might have time to destroy the Kings of the Amorites in number 31. God throwiug downe hailestones out of Heaven to destroy them.



8. The land of Canaan is divided by *Joshuah* among Gods people.
  9. The two Tribes and halfe returne to their inheritance, and the mistake about an Altar.
  10. *Joshuahs* farewell Oration or charge unto Israell to serve God according to his word and to beware of Idolatry.
  11. *Ioshuas* death and buriall.
- 

## JUDGES.

Q: 1.

**W** Hy is this booke so called?

**A:** Because it containeth the valiant *Acts* of the Judges of Israel, whom God raised up after the death of *Ioshuah* to fight the Lords battells against the enemies of the Church.

Q: 2.

*What are the names of those Iudges?*

**A:** 1 *Othniel,*

2 *Ehud,*

3 *Shamgar,*

4 *Doborah & Barack,*

5 *Gideon,*

6 *Abimilech,*

7 *Tola,*

- 8 *Iair,*
- 9 *Iephtha,*
- 10 *Ibsan,*
- 11 *Elon,*
- 12 *Abdon,*
- 13 *Sampson,*
- 14 *Eli,*
- 15 *Samuel.*

Q: 3.

*Which are the chiefe histories of this booke ?*

- A: 1 The history of Abdonibezek.*
- 2 *Israels sad Apostasy from God to Idols.*
  - 3 *The memorable battle fought by Deborah and Barak, against Sisera a heathen Generall, who was slaine by Iael inher tent.*
  - 4 *The great deliverance given to Israel by Gideon.*
  - 5 *The wickednesse of Abimelech a Bastard.*
  - 6 *The history of Iephtha and his vow.*
  - 7 *Of Sampsons valour, of his sinne, and of his death.*
  - 8 *The sad history of the Benjamites about the Levites bulinesse.*

## R U T H.

**W**HAT *is the summe and substance of this Booke?*

- 1 *A. How Elimelech and his Wife Naomi*  
with their two sonnes *Malon* and *Chilion*,  
in a time of Famine, left their own  
Country *Canaan*, and sojourned in the  
land of *Moab*.
  - 2 Their two sonnes Married two Moabi-  
tish women *Orpha* and *Ruth*.
  - 3 *Elimelech* and his two sonnes dye in that  
Country.
  - 4 *Naomi* returnes to her own Country, and  
*Ruth* will needs goe with her, and did.
  - 5 They come to *Bethlehem*, and *Naomi* so  
ordereth all things, that *Ruth* is married  
to *Boaz*, according to *Moses* Laws.
  - 6 *Boaz* hath a sonne by *Ruth* named *Obed*,  
who was Grandfather to King *David*.
- 

## The First Book of S A M U E L.

### The 1. Question.

**W**H Y are these Books called the Books of  
*Samuel*?

*A.* Not because *Samuel* wrote them, but  
because it containeth the History of *Samu-  
els* Life and Death, who being an eminent  
Prophet, and the last judge of *Israel*, had  
done great service to Gods Church, he by  
Gods appointment, elected and Anointed  
the two first Kings of *Israel*. These Books  
were

were written by some holy man, who lived in those times.

Q. 2.

*What dost thou Read of Samuel?*

- 1 *A.* I read of his Birth and Education, and of the care his good Mother *Hannah* took for him.
- 2 Of his coming to the High-Priest *Eli* to serve under him.
- 3 Of a sad Message *Samuel* brings to *Eli* from God, for winking at his sonnes wickednesses.
- 4 Of *Samuels* wisdom and care to judge *Israel* in his daies.
- 5 Of his power with God in Prayer.
- 6 Of his uncorrupt life, death, and buriall.

Q. 3.

*What canst thou say of Eli the High Priest?*

- 1 *A.* How God punished him and his sonnes in one day.
- 2 How in his daies the Arke of God was taken by the Philistins.
- 3 The Philistins and others are terribly plagued for their curiosity in looking into the Ark.
- 4 God causes the very Enemies of the Church to restore the Arke with an Offering.

Q. 4.

*What canst thou say of Saul?*

*A.*

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A:
- 1 A. He was the first King over all Israell.
  - 2 He fought against the Ammonites, and the Amalekites, and had good successe, but because he did not obey Gods command fully, he was rejected.
  - 3 Israel in *Sauls* daies was much oppressed by the Philistins, against whom God gave *Jonathan* a great victory.
  - 4 He takes *David* into his Court, and giveth him his Daughter *Michall* to Wife, for killing *Goliath*.
  - 5 Saul wearieth himselfe in persecuting *David*.
  - 6 Saul being forsaken of God, seeketh to a Witch, and presently upon that he and his sonnes are slaine in Battell by the Philistins upon Mount Gilboa.

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The Second Book of S A M U E L.

Q. I.

- W Hat is chiefly set downe in this Book.
- 1 A. That *David* was the Second King over Israel.
  - 2 His valiant Acts and household troubles.
  - 3 He endured much affliction, which made him compose many sweet Psalmes.
  - 4 He lived among the Philistins in *Ziglaik*, till
- C

till the death of *Saul*.

- 5 He is not pleased with the messengers of *Saul's* death, and the sad death of *Ishboset*, but makes a lamentation for *Saul* and *Jonathan*.
- 6 He is first made King in *Hebron* over *Isidab*, and afterwards over all *Israell*, and carried himselfe wisely in the buiness of *Abner* and *Ioab*.

Q. 2.

*What canst thou farther say of David?*

- 1 A. How he took *Jerusalem* from the *Jerusalemites*, and brought the *Arke* of *God* thether, intending to build a Temple for *Gods* worship.
- 2 He sinned grievously against *Uria*, for which he suffered much afterward of his own children, *Amon*, *Thamar*, *Absolom*.
- 3 He had many troubles besides with *Sheba*, *Shimei*, and *Ioab*.
- 4 His kindnesse to the *Gibeonites* in a sore famine, as also to *Mephiboshet*, and *Hanun* King of *Ammon*.
- 5 He is victorious every where, all his enemies are subdued round about.
- 6 He numbred the People, and all *Israell* is plagued for it.

The First and Second Bookes of  
K I N G S.

The 1. Question.

**H**O *W* many Kings raigned over all Israel?

*A.* Only three, *Saul, David, Solomon.*

**Q.** 2.

*What is said in this Book, of David?*

*A.* He commands his sonne *Solomon* to be made King, and not *Adoniah*.

*2.* He groweth weake in his old age, giveth his sonne *Solomon* most heavenly admonitions and directions, dyeth and is royally buried.

**Q.** 3.

*What is mentioned of Solomon?*

*A.* His behaviour towards *Adoniah, Ioab, Abiathar, and Shimei.*

*2.* His marriage with the Princeesse of Egypt.

*3.* His Prayer for Wisdome, and the signes of his Wisdome.

**Q.** 4.

*Wherein did Solomons Wisdome eminently appear?*

*A.* In the judgement he gave 'twixt the dead and the living Child.

*2.* In his Songs, and Proverbs, and Natural

rall Philosophy, knowing the nature of most Creatures.

- 3 In the government of his Court and Kingdome.
- 4 In the building of Gods Temple in Jerusalem.
- 5 By his prayer at the Dedication of the Temple.
- 6 By his entertainment of the Queene of Sheba.

Q: 5.

*What evil dost thou read of Solomon?*

- 1 A. He had seaven hundred Wives, and three hundred Concubines.
- 2 He committed Idolatry, by the inticement of his Idolatrous outlandish Wives.
- 3 I read of Gods anger against Solomon, testified by raising up Adversaries against him, namely;

- 1 Jeroboam his own servant.
- 2 Hadad the King of Edom.
- 3 Rezon the King of Syria.

Q: 6.

*What was done after Solomons death?*

A. After that Solomon died, and was buried the Kingdome was divided. Ten Tribes adhered to Jeroboam, and two only to Solomons Sonne.

Q: 7.

*How many Kings raigned only over the two Tribes,*



ature of Tribes, that were Kings of Judah?

A. The Kings of Judah were twenty whose names are these;

- 1 Rehoboam.
- 2 Abiam.
- 3 Asa.
- 4 Jehosophat.
- 5 Jehoram.
- 6 Ahaziah.
- 7 Queen Athaliah
- 8 Joash
- 9 Amazia
- 10 Azariah called also Uzziah.
- 11 Jotham.
- 12 Ahaz
- 13 Hezekiah
- 14 Manasseh
- 15 Amon
- 16 Josiah
- 17 Jehoaz
- 18 Jehoiachim
- 19 Jehoiakin
- 20 Zedekiah.

Q. 8.

How many Kings Rained over the Ten Tribes of Israel?

A. The Kings over Israell were Nineteene, and none of them good: their names are these;

- 1 Jeroboam
- 2 Nadab
- 3 Baasha
- 4 Elah
- 5 Zimri
- 6 Omri
- 7 Ahab
- 8 Ahaziah
- 9 Jehoram
- 10 Jehu
- 11 Jehoahaz
- 12 Jehoash
- 13 Jeroboam
- 14 Zachariah
- 15 Shallum
- 16 Menahem
- 17 Pekaiab
- 18 Pekah
- 19 Hoshea.

## Q. 9.

*What is said of the first King of Juda Rehobean?*

1. *A. He neglected the good Counsell of old men, and so lost the greatest part of his Kingdome.*
- 2 *For his sinnes and the sinnes of the land, the King of Egypt came with an Army, and robbed the Temple, which Solomon had built and beautified.*

He dyed and was little lamented.

Q. 10.

*What is said of Abiam the second King of Juda?*

A. He was very wicked, he Raigned but three years and died.

Q. 11.

*What canst thou say of Asa?*

A. He was a Godly King and reformed Religion.

He prospered in his Warres against Ba<sup>ash</sup><sup>a</sup>, and against the Ethiopians.

He and his Subjects entred into a strict Covenant to serve God according to his word.

Two sinnes are laid to his charge:

1 His unkindnesse to the Prophet Hanani.

2 His looking more after Physitians then God.

He fell sick of a disease in his feet and died.

Q. 12.

*What is said of Jehosaphat?*

A. He like his Father Asa maintained true Religion.

He is blamed for keeping friendship with Ahab.

He walked in the first wayes of David being zealous.

- 4 He caused the Priests to goe from Towne to Towne to Catechise the people.
- 5 In a time of Warre, he seekes God and gets a great victory: he Reigned gloriously and died peaceably.

Q: 13.

*What is said of Jehoram?*

- A:* 1 He was wicked and Idolatrous, for which he is reprov'd in a letter from the Prophet *Elijah*, but he despised it.
- 2 For his sinnes God smote him with an incurable disease and paine in his bowells whereof he dyed.
  - 3 His death was not lamented, neither was he buried among the Kings of Juda.

Q: 14.

*What is said of Ahaziah?*

- A:* He was a very wicked King he reigned but one yeare and going to see the King of Israel is slaine there by *Jehu*,

Q: 15.

*What readest thou of Queen Athaliah?*

- A:* 1 She being the Queens mother undertaks to reigne, & killeth all the Royall seed, excepting one yong Prince *Joash*, who was secretly carried away, and preserved by his Aunt *Jehoshebah* the wife of *Jehoiadah* the high Priest.
- 2 This Queene was afterwards slaine by the command of the high Priest, and *Joash* the yong Prince succeeded.

Q: 16.

*What is said of Joash?*

A: 1 *Joash* is made King by *Jehoiadah* the high Priest and did well so long as this Priest lived, taking great care for the repairing of the Temple.

2 After the death of his Uncle the high Priest, he groweth very wicked, and being reprov'd, by his Uncles sonne then the high Priest, he caused him to be killed, an ill requitall to his Uncle, who had saved his life, & preferred him to the Crowne.

3 *Jehoiadah* dying is buried among the Kings.

+ *Joash* by a conspiracy is slaine by his Courtiers,

Q: 17.

*What canst thou say of Amaziah?*

A: 1 He was a religious Prince, and revenged his Fathers Murther.

2 He challenged *Jehoash* King of Israel to fight with him, but he is worsted by him.

3 He hired souldiers out of Israel for an 100 shekells of silver: but being advised by a Prophet, to let these Souldiers goe backe againe to their own homes because they were wicked Idolaters he obeyed and is content to loose the mony. God is able, saith the Prophet

to

to give thee much more, then this money commeth to.

- 4 He fights with the Edomites, and having conquered them, worshipping their Idole Gods, for which being reprov'd by a Prophet, he continued obstinate, and at last growing proud he is killed by a conspiracy.

Q: 18.

*What read we of Azaria or Uzziah?*

A: 1 He was good King and reigned 52 yeares.

- 2 He overcame the Philistians in Battell.
- 3 He was a Lover of Husbandry and Cattell.
- 4 At last he meddling with the Priests Office, he is smitten with leprosy, and dyed.

Q: 19.

*What is said of Jotham?*

A: There is little said of him, only he executed his Fathers Kingly office, after his Father was leprous.

Q: 20.

*What is said of Abaz?*

A: 1. He was very wicked: the Scripture saith this is that Abaz to shew the greatnesse of his sinnes and wickednesse, he offered his sonne to the Idole Molech in the fire.

- 2 He lost part of his Cuntry, and hired the King of Assyria to helpe him against the Syrians.
- 3 He put up an Idolatrous Alter after the forme of that he saw in Damascus, and made great changes in Religion for the worse, and dyed.

Q: 21.

*What do we read of Hezekiah?*

- A: 1 He was one of the best Kings of Juda, and reformed Religion, and brake the brazen serpent, set up by Moses in the Wildernesse.
- 2 He kept a stately passover, and perswaded all his subjects to binde themselves by a vow to serve the Lord.
- 3 God delivered him and Jerusalem from the Army of Senacharib, an Angell from heaven fighting for them.
- 4 He fell sick, and upon his prayer God added 15 yeares to his life.
- 5 He was a great builder and became exceeding famous.
- 6 He offended God by shewing his Treasures out of vaine glory to the Ambassadors of the King of Assyra, and dyed.

Q: 22.

*What is said of Manasseth?*

- A: 1 He was one of the most wicked Idolatrous Kings of Juda, and dealt with Devills

Devills, and wizzards and spilt much innocent blood.

- 2 he is led away captive into Babylon, and upon his repentance he is restored againe to his Kindome and dyed.

Q: 23.

*What is said of Amos?*

A: he was very wicked, and is slaine by his own servants in his house.

Q: 24.

*What do we read of Josiah?*

- A: 1 he was one of the best Kings of Juda, and being very yong, when his Father was slaine he was by the care of his Mother & the high Priest religiously bred up.
- 2 The Prophetesse *Huldah* foretells Gods Judgements upon the land and a Blessing upon him, for humbling himselfe at the reading of the Law.
- 3 he kept a most solemne Passover, and destroyed the Idolatry of Juda and Israel.
- 4 he goeth contrary to Gods command to war against *Pharao Necho*, and is there unfortunately slaine, whose death was lamented by all specially by the Prophet *Jeremy*.

Q: 25.

*What is said of Jehoahaz?*

A:



*A:* He is taken captive by *Pharoah* and dyed in prison in *Egypt*.

*Q:* 26.

*What is said of Jehoiakim?*

*A:* 1 He was very wicked, and became Tributary to *Egypt*, and oppressed his subjects.

2 The *caldeans* and other Nations invaded *Juda*, and distressed him every way, and he dyed.

*Q:* 27.

*What do we read of Jehoiachin?*

*Nebucadnezzar* King of *Babylon* tooke him his Wife and Children and many of the Nobles of *Juda* captives into *Babylon*, there he lived and dyed a prisoner, yet in his latter dayes he had some enlargement granted to him in *Babylon*.

*Q:* 28.

*What is said of Mattaniah alias Zedekiah?*

*A:* He was wicked and rebelled against the King of *Babylon*, whereupon the *Caldeans* besieged the Citty *Jerusalem* and tooke it and brnt the Citty and Temple, & carryed away the King and all *Juda* captive into *Babylon* for 70 yeares according to *Jeremys* Prophecy.

Thus far goeth the History of the  
Kings of *Juda*.

Here

Here followeth the History of the  
Kings of Israel after the Death  
of SOLOMON.

The 1. Question.

**W**hat is said of Jeroboam the first King  
of Israel?

- 1 *A. Jeroboam* for *Solomons* finnes is made King of the ten Tribes of Israel.
- 2 He setts up Idolls in his dominions for feare his Subjects should goe up to worship in Jerusalem, and so fall off from him againe: For which sinfull policy this marke of infamy is set on his name: *Jeroboam* the Sonne of *Nebat*, who made Israell to sinne.
- 3 When one of Gods Prophets came to reprove, and to reclaime him from his sins, he stretched out his hand against that Prophet, whereupon his hand withered, but was againe restored.
- 4 The same Prophet seduced by a lying Prophet is slaine by a Lyon at his returne.
- 5 *Jeroboams* sonne dyed young, because God saw some good in him.
- 6 He had perpetuall warres with the Kings of Juda and dyed.

( 39 )

Q: 2.

*What is said of Nadab his sonne?*

A. He being wicked and Idolatrous like his Father, was slaine by *Baasha*, one of his own Subjects, in the second yeare of his Reigne.

Q: 3.

*What read we of Baasha?*

A: 1 He executed Gods wrath upon *Jeroboams* posterity, and was a great warrior:

2 For his wickednesse he is told by the Prophet *Jehu* that God would deale with him as he dealt with *Jeroboam*.

Q: 4.

*What is said of Elah, Zimri and Omri the following Kings?*

A: 1 *Elah* being drunck at a feast is slaine by his servant *Zimri*:

2 *Zimri* having destroyed all *Baashae's* posterity is pursued by *Omri* he fleeth to his Pallace and burnes himselfe and Pallace.

3 *Omri* is made King by the Souldiers, and prevaieth against *Tibny* his competitor, he built the City *Samaria* and dyed:

Q: 5.

*What is said of Ahab, Omrie's sonne?*

A. *Ahab* was worse then any of the Kings of

of Israel before him, for he brought with his wife *Iezabel* the Idol Baal into the land.

- 2 In his dayes Jerico was built: And for 3 yeares & 6 months there was no raine in the land, which caused a great famine.
- 3 He caused innocent *Naboth* to be stoned, by his wives instigation, to get his Vineyard.
- 4 Upon the Prophet *Elia's* message from God for a heavy judgment he humbled himselfe for the present, whereupon the judgment is put off for a time.
- 5 He was victorious in two great battells which he fought with *Benhadad* King of Syria.
- 6 He goeth against *Ramoth Gilead* to battell contrary to the Prophet *Micha's* counsell and is slaine in the field, *Iehosaphat* King of Juda being with him.
- 7 In his dayes the Prophet *Elia* was famous.

Q: 6.

*What read we of Elia the Prophet?*

- A: 1. He foretells a famine upon the land.
- 2 He is fed by ravens.
  - 3 He increaseth the Widdowes oile and meale, & raised a dead child to life.

4 *Obadia* a good Courtier bringeth him to *Ahab*, *Elia* calls *Baalls* Priests to a Sacrifice, and puts them to death.

5 At *Elia's* prayer God sent raine.

6 For feare of Queene *Jezebel* he fled into a Wildernesse, where he is fed by an Angell, God appeareth to him and commandeth him, to annoint *Elisha* to be a Prophet in his roome.

7 *Elia* being sent for by King *Ahaziah* *Ahabs* sonne, caused fire to come downe from heaven, to consume the first and second Captaines and their fifties, he spareth the third Captaine, and goeth with him to the King.

8 He was taken up into heaven in a fiery Charet, *Elisha* being by and beholding it.

Q: 7.

What is said of *Ahazia* *Ahabs* sonne, the eight King of Israel?

A.

1 He was wicked like his Father, *Jehosaphat* refuseth his friendship.

2 He dyed of a fall through a lettesse according to the word of *Elia*.

Q: 8.

What read we of *Jehoram*?

A.

1 He was *Ahazia's* younger brother.

D

2. For *Jehoshaphat's* sake he obtained a great victory against the *Moabites*.
- 3 He is slaine by *Jehu* one of his Captaines.
- 4 In his daies *Elisha* prophesied.

Q: 9.

*What doe we read of Elisha the Prophet?*

- 1 *A.* He being with *Elia* going up to heaven got his Mantle, and therewith divided the waters of *Jordan* as *Elia* had done before.
- 2 *A.* He healed the bitter waters of *Jericho*.
- 3 He caused two Beares to destroy forty two Schoole-boyes for nicknaming and calling him Bald-head.
- 4 He multiplied the Widdowes oyle, and raised the *Shunamites* dead child to life.
- 5 He healed the pottage.  
Caused the Iron to swimme.  
He fed an hundred men with a few loaves.  
He cured *Naamans* leprosy.  
He punished his servant *Gehazy* for lying and for taking a reward.  
He told the secrets of the King of *Syria* to the King of *Israel*.  
He smote the *Syrians* who came to apprehend him, with blindnesse.  
He foretold suddaine plenty in *Samaria*, in a time of a grievous famine.

a great 6 He entertained *Hazael* with teares, and  
 obtaines. told him of his future greatnesse and  
 cruelty.

7 Upon his death-bed he promised the  
 King, who came to see him, three victo-  
 ries against the Syrians.

8 He dyed, and in his grave, a dead souldi-  
 er is raised to life by touching his bones.

Q. 10.

*What is said of Jehu?*

f Jeri- 1 A. Of a Captaine he is made King over  
 forty israhel, he destroyed all *Ahabs* posterity,  
 ng and he killed both the Kings of Juda and  
 le, and israhel, he caused *Queene Iezabel* to be  
 to life. thrown out of a Window, and he killed  
 all the worshippers of *Baal*.

2 For his zeale against *Baal* and *Ahabs*  
 house God promised him, that foure of  
 his posterity should be Kings.

a few 3 He was a great Warrior, but wicked &  
 dyed.

Q. 11.

lying *What read we of his sonne Jehoahaz.*

Syria 1 A. He walked in the wayes of *Jeroboam*,

o ap- 2 When the Syrians invaded his land, he  
 cried to God, and he delivered him, and  
 he dyed peaceably.

Q. 12.

maria, *What is said of Jehoath?*

6 1 He lived in his Fathers sinne.

- 2 He fought with *Amaziah* King of *Juda*, and overcame him, he was a great Warrior, and dyed.

Q: 13.

*What is said of Jeroboam and Zachariah?*

- 1 *A. Jeroboam* was a great warrior, and had good successe and died.  
2 *Zacharia* succeeded him, and reigned but halfe a yeare, and was slaine by *Shallum* one of his own Subjects.

Q: 14.

*What doe we read of the other five, being the last Kings of Israel?*

- 1 *A. Shallum* reigned one Month, and is slaine by *Menhaem*.  
2 *Menhaem* reigned ten years, and oppressed his Subjects by taxes.  
3 *Pekaiah* his sonne reigned two years and is killed by *Pekah* a Captaine of his Army.  
4 *Pekah* is killed by *Hoshea*.  
5 In *Pekah* and *Hoshea*'s daies, *Israell* is carried away captive to *Babylon*; and thus ended the Kingdome of *Israel*.



The First and Second Bookes of  
CHRONICLES.

**Q. 1.**  
**VV** *HY are these Books so called?*

1 *A. Because in these are recorded many memorable things from Adam to those times.*

2 *Because therein are contained some Histories of the Kings of Israel and Juda.*

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E Z R A.

**Q. 1.**  
**W** *Hat is the summe of this Book?*

1 *A. How the Jewes after 70 yeares captivity returned, by command from the Emperour Cyrus, into Judea, and set up againe the Temple and Worship of God in Ierusalem, and built the City.*

2 *Ezra the High Priest being also returned taught the People the Law of Moses, and caused all that had married outlandish woemen, to send their Wives and Children away from them, because, Jesus Christ being to come of the Tribe of Iuda, God would have a holy seed preserved.*

- 3 Old people seeing the new Temple and City and remembring the Glory of the old, wept, because not so glorious and stately, as was that built by *Solomon*, but they are told by the Prophet that this latter Temple shall be far more glorious then the former, because the Promised Messiah of the World should teach there in prison.
- 

## NEHEMIA.

WHAT *Q:* *is chiefly contained in this book?*

- A:* 1. *Nehemiah* a captive Jew, and a great favorite of the Emperour *Artaxerxes* hath leave and meanes granted him to returne to his own Country, and to set forward the building of the City and Temple in Jerusalem.
2. Being returned he is much opposed in the worke by *Tobia* and *Sanballat*, yet protected of God, the people being constrained to worke with one hand, and to hold a sword in the other.
3. He did much for Gods worship, and for his Countreyes good.

## HESTER.

W<sup>H</sup>AT is the summe of this book?

A: 1. How *Hester* a poore jewish captive maid is preferred to be Queen and Emperesse to the Emperour *Ahasbuerus* after that the former Queene *Vasthy* was deposed, for refusing to come to the King when he sent for her, to shew her beauty to the Nobles being then assembled at a great feast the emperour had made for them, which feast lasted 180 dayes, where none was compelled to drinke, but every man left to his freedom.

2 *Haman* a Noble man, and a great favorite at that Court, obtained a decree from the Emperour to kill all the people of God, the Jewes in one day because *Mardochy* the Jew would not bow the knee before him.

3 How Gods wonderfull providence wrought for their deliverance and preservation by the care and prayer and fasting of *Mardochy* and of Queen *Hester*.

4 How *Hamans* intended mischeife is discovered

covered to the King at a feast and prevented, and how *Haman* was hanged on the same Gallows, he had set up for *Mardochy*, for which deliverance the lews kept a yearly feast, called *Purim* or *Lot*,

Q. 2.

*Why would not Mardochy bow to Haman?*

A. Because *Haman* was by Nation an Amalekite, which Nation was cursed of God, and the Israelites were commanded to abhorre them. *Exod. 17. 16.* where *Moses* saith, that God will have warre with *Amalek* from generation to generation.

## J O B.

VV

Q. 1.

*What read we of Iob?*

- 1 A. That he was a very rich man, and a very Godly man, having seaven Sonnes and three Daughters, and a very great household.
- 2 God was pleased to give way to Satan to deprive him of all his Estate, Children, Friends, and his health, to trie his patience.
- 3 *Iobs* behaviour under his wofull losse, pain & sorrow was exceeding comfortable, full of Faith and patience, blessing God for all.

Some of his old friends came to visit, and to comfort him in his distresse, endeavouring to convince him that God plagued him for some notorious sinne, as for hypocrisy or the like, whereupon followeth a sharpe and a witty dispute between them.

The Question was, whether *Iob* suffered for hypocrisy. His friends affirme it, and ordered all their discourses accordingly.

*Iob* denies it, and maintaines his integrity. At last God himselfe is the Moderator between them, *Iob* is justified and his friends condemned, and *Iob* must pray God to forgive their mistakes.

Q. 2.

What was the event and issue of *Iob*'s trial?

A. The issue was most comfortable, for,

- 1 He recovered his former health and strength.
- 2 God blessed him with a greater worldly estate, then he had at first.
- 3 God gave him as many Children as he had before.
- 4 He lived 140 yeares after his troubles & dyed.

## The Book of PSALMES.

## The 1. Question.

**W**hat say you of the Book of Psalmes?

- 1 This Book of Psalmes is one of the most excellent Books of holy Scripture, wonderfully fitted for all mens occasions, whether in aduersity or in prosperity.
- 2 It is thought by the Learned, that *Esdra* collected these Psalmes, and put them into this order we now read them in.
- 3 Christians in former times were so in love with this Book, that one while they would read it over every weeke, another while every moneths
- 4 It is a Book full of prayers and thanksgivings: seaven Psalmes are called penitentiall Psalmes, because *David* composed them or some of them, at a time when he repented for his sinnes, fit to be often read by us, and they are these;

The

6  
32  
38  
51  
102  
130  
143

- 5 In times of sicknesse or other troubles read also

The

(51)

The { 25 Psalme.  
39  
88  
22  
44 with others.

In times of prosperity, when thou wouldest give God thanks for a blessing received, read or sing

The { 19 Psalme  
65  
103  
104  
107 with others.

They are called the Psalmes of *David*, because the Kingly Prophet David made most of them, though not all, for many Psalmes were made by other holy men after *Dauids* death: Christ and his Apostles doe often repeat things out of it.

This Book is very usefull for the weaker and more ignorant people.

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## PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES, CANTICLES.

The 1. Question.

**W**hat say you of these three Bookes of Solomon?

1. 4. The Book of Proverbs containes much

much heavenly matter in few words, every Chapter, and sometimes every verse holding forth diverse Truths.

2 In the Book of *Ecclesiastes* Solomon like a Preacher instructs us, how to look after true blessednesse, and convinces us, that all things under the Sunne are vanity, and vexation of Spirit, and he is exceeding earnest with young folkes to serve God betimes.

3 In the *Canticles*, Solomon sets forth the mutuall and entire love, betwixt Jesus Christ the Bridegroom, and all Believers his spouse.

This Book is to be read with all Christian reverence and holy affections. Wanton and filthy people, are very unfit to Read this or any other part of holy writ.

## Of the Holy Prophets of the *Old Testament.*

Q. 1.

**H**ow many Prophets have left us their Books in the *Old Testament*?

**A.** Sixteene: whereof the foure first are called the greater Prophets, and the other twelve are called the lesser Prophets.



phets, because they have not written so largely as the foure greater have done.

Q. 2.

*What saist thou of the Prophet Esay?*

He and *Jeremy* Preached before the Babylonian captivity: *Ezekiel* and *Daniel* Prophecyed in the captivity.

*Esay* speaks so sweetly and plainly of Christs Nativity and Passion, as if he had seen it, and is therefore called a Prophetickall Evangelist.

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## JEREMY & LAMENTATION.

Q. 1.

VV

*What saist thou of Jeremy?*

A. He was called to be a Prophet, when he was young.

He Preached in Jerusalem, when the City was besieged, and he often intreated King and People with much importunity to hearken to Gods word, and to preserve the Citty and Temple from burning, and themselves from bitter bondage. For which good Counsell this Prophet is hated, and continually kept in wofull prisons.

3 At last Jerusalem is taken by the Caldeans and destroyed whereupon *Jeremy* hauing his liberty granted by the Caldean Generall laments over the sad ruine of his Country in the Booke of the Lamentations.

## EZ EKIEL.

**W**

Q:

*What canst thou say of Ezechiel?*

A: He preached to the Jewes at Babylon in their captivity, convinced them of Gods just judgments upon them for their sinnes and assured them of future deliverance, and of the rebuilding of Jerusalem and of the rebuilding of the Temple, for which purpose he hath many visions.

## DANIEL.

**W**

Q:

*What is said of Daniel?*

A: 1 He for his singular wisdom and Faithfulnesse is preferred to very great honour under those three Emperours especially *Nebucadnezar*, *Belsassar*, and *Darius*.

Three of his fellow captives are throwne into a fiery Furnace; and *Daniel* himselfe is cast into a Lyons den, but are all preserved they trusting in God.

God declared much of his minde to *Daniel*, concerning things to come, by visions Angells, he speakes of the Resurrection and the day of Judgment in the last Chapter.

## The twelve lesser PROPHETS.

VV

Q.

*Hat saist thou of them?*

A: 1 Of the twelve lesser Prophets, some preached before the Captivity, some in, and some after it.

Their maine businesse was to perswade people to repentance, and to threaten the impenitent with Gods wrath and to comfort the penitent.

The last Prophet was *Malachy*, who Prophecyed of *John* the Baptist and of the Comming of *Jesus Christ* the Sonne of Righteousnesse.

APO-

## A P O C R Y P H A.

Q. I.

**W**hat saist thou of the Apocrypha Books, usually bound up with the Canonical Books of Scripture?

The Apocrypha Books are not the pure infallible word of God: Because,

- 1 They containe many fabulous things, as the History of *Susanna*, of *Bel* and the *Dragon*, of *Judith* and the like.
- 2 Because they were not written by Prophets immediately inspired by the Holy Ghost. For the Author of the Books of the *Maccabees* in the latter end, asketh pardon, if he have not done well, which agreeth not with the Majesty of holy Scripture.
- 3 Because these Books containe many things contrary to the Truth, as diverse passages in the Book of *Tobit* and the rest testify.
- 4 Because they were not written in the Hebrew Language, as the Canonickall books of the Old Testament were. Neither is any of them mentioned by Christ or his Apostles in the New Testament.

We may read them, and take notice of some passages concerning the people of God.

God in those daies, we may also see in the  
reading of them, the difference twixt the  
writings of meere men, and those that are  
written by holy Prophets inspired by the  
holy Ghost. 2 Pet. 1. 19.



## The New

# TESTAMENT.

**Q. 1.**  
**W**HY is it called the New Testament?

**A.** Because it doth discover to us the  
Grace and Mercies of God promised  
in the Covenant of Grace. For God made  
two Covenants with the World;

1 A Covenant of Workes, which is,  
Doe this and thou shalt live.

2 A Covenant of Grace, and that is,  
Believe and thou shalt live, as it is in the  
Gospell.

**Q. 2.**  
What is the Gospell?

**A.** The Gospell declareth the glad ti-  
dings of Salvation by Jesus Christ: where  
note that

The Old Testament speaks chiefly of  
the Acts of God the Father.

E

The

The foure Gospels set forth the workes  
of God the Sonne.

The Acts and Epistles of the Apostles  
shew forth the workes and wonders of  
God the Holy Ghost after Christs ascen-  
tion into heaven.

Q. 3.

*Which are the chiefe Sermons of Christ a Chri-  
stian should often read and learne to understand?*

A. There are foure especially.

First Christs Sermon upon the Mount in  
the 5, 6, and 7. Chapters of S. Matthew.

Secondly his Sermon to the Ministers of  
the Gospell in the 10. Chapter of S.  
Matthew.

Thirdly his Sermon of the day of judge-  
ment and the end of the world in the  
24, and 25. Chapter of S. Mathew.

Fourthly his farewell Sermon to his Dis-  
ciples in the 14, 15, and 16. Chapters of  
S. Iohn.

To which Sermons adde Christs heavenly  
Prayer for the Church, the 17. Chapter of  
S. Iohn.

## S. MATTHEW.

VV

*Q.*  
Hast saist thou of S. Matthew?

- works  
apostles  
orders of  
ascen
- 1 A. He was called by Christ from the receipt of custome to be an Apostle; and he was willing to forsake all and to follow him.
  - 2 His Gospell containes Christ's Nativity, his life, death and Resurrection.
  - 3 S. Matthew writes some things, which other Evangelists have not; as
    - 1 The genealogy of Christ from *Abraham* downward to *Joseph* and *Mary*.
    - 2 The History of the Wise Men,
    - 3 *Josephs* purpose to forsake his espoused Wife upon a mistake.
    - 4 Christ's fleeing into Egypt from the fury of King *Herod*.
    - 5 The bloody murder of the Infants of *Bethlehem*.
    - 6 Some Parables, which the other Evangelists have not.
- 

## S. M A R K.

W<sup>2</sup> *Hat canst thou say of S. Mark?*

- 1 A. S. Mark was no Apostle, but an Evangelist, and a Disciple of S. Peter, with whose help he wrote the History of Christ's Life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension.

- 2 This Evangelist is more large in the description of Christs Miracles, then in other passages of Christs Life and Death.
- 

## S. L U K E.

VV

Q.

*What say you of his Gospell and of him?*

- 1 A. S. Luke by profession a Phylitian was one of the 70 Disciples, employed by S. Paul in the planting of the Gospell.
- 2 He observeth many things, which other Evangelists have omitted, as
  - 1 The History of Zachary and Elizabeth, and the Nativity of John the Baptist.
  - 2 The Angell Gabriells salutation to the blessed Virgin Mary.
  - 3 The History of old Simeon, and of Anna the Prophetesse.
  - 4 Christs disputing with the Doctors, when he was but twelve years old.
- 5 The time of Christs Nativity, namely in the Reigne of Augustus the Emperour of Rome.
- 6 The manifestation of Christs Nativity by Angells to the Sheapheards,
- 7 Christs Circumcision the eight day.



- 6 The Genealogy of Christ upward to Adam.  
 9 The Parable of *Dives* and *Lazarus*, and of the Prodigall Sonne, &c.  
 10 Christs praying whole nights in desert mountaines alone.  
 11 The History of the two Disciples going to *Emaus* on Easter day.
- 

## S. JOHN.

VV

2.

*What can you say of S. John?*

- 1 A. He was one of the twelve Apostles whom Jesus loved, he outlived all the Apostles, and dyed a naturall death at Ephesus, if we believe the Church History: All the rest of the Apostles were killed.  
 2 He begins his Gospell with many arguments, to prove that Jesus Christ was God from everlasting, coæquall to the Father, and to the holy Ghost.  
 3 Most of his Histories are omitted by the other Evangelists, as  
 1 The calling of *Nathaniel*:  
 2 Christs Miracle at a marriage in *Cana*.  
 3 Christs dispute with *Nicodemus* about regeneration.

- 1 His discourse with the Woman of Samaria.
- 5 His healing of a man at the poole of Bethesda, that had been 38 years sick.
- 6 His severall disputes with the Jewes about his divine nature, and concerning his reall Spirituall sence in the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.
- 7 His raising of *Lazarus* from the dead.
- 8 His washing of the Disciples feet.
- 9 Christs restoring of *Peter* to his former place by a threefold confession of him, as he had before three times denyed him.

## ACTS.

**W**<sup>2</sup> *Hat say you of this Book?*

*A.* The Penman of the Acts of the Apostles was *Luke*, the chiefe Histories whereof are these.

- 1 Christs ascention into Heaven.
- 2 The election of *Matthias* to be an Apostle in the roome of *Judas* the traitour.
- 3 The wonderfull comming of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost.

- 4 The healing of a Cripple by Peter and  
*John.*  
 5 The sad end of *Ananias* and *Sapphira*.  
 6 The Martyrdome of *Stephen*.  
 7 The miraculous conversion of *Paul*.  
 8 The conversion of *Cornelius* by Peter, and  
 the conversion of many other Gentiles  
 by *Paul*, as of *Lydia*, *Sergius Paulus*, the  
*Jaylour*, and others.  
 9 The Martyrdome of *James*, the impri-  
 sonment and deliverance of Peter by an  
 Angell.  
 10 The woefull end of persecuting *Herod*,  
 who was eaten up alive by wormes for  
 his rage against the Church of Christ.  
 11 *Pauls* travells and great sufferings in  
 diverse places both by Jewes and Gen-  
 tils.  
 12 His Sermons before *Felix*, *Festus*, and  
 King *Agrippa*.  
 13 His dangerous Sea-voiage to Rome,  
 and his behaviour and conversation  
 there.
- 

The fourteen EPISTLES of  
*S. Paul.*

W<sup>Q:</sup> Hat say you of these Epistles of Paul?  
 E 4

A:

*A.* The Apostle *Pauls* end in his Epistles is,

- 1 To convince men of sin, and so of a necessity of Christ, the onely Saviour of the world.
- 2 To set forth the unsearcheable riches of Gods free grace in Christ to the world.
- 3 To exhort Christians to thankfulness, and to the performance of their duties towards God, and towards men, whether our superiors, inferiors or equals.

## The Epistle of S. JAMES.

Q. 1.

**VV**

*Hat say you of this Epistle?*

- 1 *A.* This Apostle perswades Christians to shew the truth of Faith by good workes.
- 2 The Doctrine of S. *James* about justification is not contrary to that of S. *Pauls* in his Epistles, as *Luther* thought at first.  
For

As S. *Paul* teacheth, that it is faith that doth justify us before God; so S. *James* shewes what Faith it must be, namely not a dead, but a living fruitful faith.

The

The First and Second Epistle of  
P E T E R.

**W**<sup>Q.</sup> *HAT say you of these two Epistles?*

1 *A.* These two Epistles are called general Epistles, because they were written, not to any particular Nation, or Citty, or Person, as those of *Paul*, but to all Christians, whether Jewes or Gentiles.

1 In these Epistles the Apostle *Peters* aime is,

1 To exhort Christians to make their calling and election sure.

2 To exhort us to discharge our duties to God and Man.

2 To forewarne us of damnable heresies, and false teachers, that would trouble Gods Church in the latter times of the world.

The

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The three EPISTLES of *Iohn*.

**W** *Hat can you say of these?*

*A:* The Apostle *Iohn*'s drift and aime in these three Epistles is

- 1 To commend unto us the deare love of God in *Iesus Christ* to his Chosen people.
  - 2 To perswade us to Love God againe.
  - 3 To assure us that true Love to God doth appeare by our true love to the Bretheren.
  - 4 He commends the Noble Lady of *Asia* for her Piety and Charity.
  - 5 He commends one *Gajus* a charitable harbourer and reliever of persecuted Christians in those dayes.
  - 6 He sharply censureth one *Diotrefhes* for ambition and pride, loving the preheminance & seeking his own Glory more then the Glory of *Christ*, and the honour of the Gospell.
- 

The Epistle of *JUDE*.

**W** *Hat canst thou say of this Epistle?*

- 1 A: The Apostle exhorts Christians to constancy in Faith once received.  
 2 He describeth the evil manners and dangerous opinions of Apostates and Heretiques in the latter time of the world.
- 

The APOCALYPS or REVELATION  
 of S. Iohn.

VV

2:


*What can you say of Iohns Revelation?*

- 1 A: S. Iohn for Religion was banished by the Emperour *Domitian* into a solitary Iland, there Jesus Christ appeared to him, and by his Angell revealed to him, what should befall the Church of God to the end of the world.  
 2 The three first Chapters are historicall, relating the history of the seven Churches of Asia.  
 3 The whole booke is very Mysterious containing visions and very obscure things. Yet a speciall blessing is Promised to the carefull reading and meditation of it. Chap. 1. 3.  
 4 In this booke is told of  
 1 The evils that should befall Gods Church under Antichrist.

- 2 The rise and fall of Antichrist, or Pope of Rome.
- 3 A description of the day of judgement, of the Resurrection, and of the heavenly Jerusalem, and of Gods peoples earnest expectation and longing for the comming of Jesus Christ in glory. To whom with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, be all Glory, Praise, and Thanks-giving for ever and ever. A M E N.



*A Prayer for Young People  
Mornings and Evenings.*

1.  Most Holy Lord God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, my mercifull Father in Jesus Christ, Thou art light it selfe, & I am by nature darknesse it selfe, dead in sinnes and trespasses, Spiritually blind and poore, naked and miserable, not able of my selfe to have a good thought, much lesse to doe one God-pleasing worke, worse then the beasts that perish. For I am guilty of the first sinne of



ist, or our first parents in Paradise, I was concei-  
 ved and borne in sinne, and have lived in  
 sinne to this day, I have not kept one of  
 thy holy lawes, I have not prized the Go-  
 spell of Salvation, neither have thy mer-  
 cies or visitations kindly wrought upon  
 mee, I have omitted holy duties, and I  
 have committed many evils in thy sight O  
 Lord God, & so have deserved a thousand  
 waies to be cast out into utter darknesse, to  
 have my portion in Hell with the damned  
 for ever: Oh that I could bewaile my sins,  
 and mourne in secret bitterly for them as  
 I should: O Lord I abhorre my selfe in dust  
 and ashes, miserable wretch that I am, who  
 shall deliver mee from the body of this  
 death?

2. O Lord God, thou hast sent thy  
 deare Sonne Jesus into the World to save  
 sinners, and thy holy Word doth assure me,  
 that if I confesse and forsake my sinnes, I  
 shall have mercy, and that if I repent and  
 believe in Christ, I shall not perish. I pray  
 thee, holy Lord God, give mee a broken  
 and a contrite heart and spirit, give me re-  
 pentance unto Life, and true Faith in our  
 Lord Jesus Christ that he may be all in all  
 unto me: Oh let his precious Bloud cleanse  
 me from all my sinnes, let him be my Hea-  
 venly Prophet to teach me, my great high  
 Priest

Priest to redeem me, and to pray in Heaven for me, let him be my King to rule and guide me by his word & holy Spirit, that by him I may overcome the Divell the world & the Corruptions of my heart, and so perfect holinesse in thy feare.

3. Keep me O Lord, from all such occasions and company where I may be tempted to offend thee, help me to see how vain and uncertaine all things of the world are. Oh give me a heart to love the Lord Jesus in sincerity, and to think nothing too much I can do or suffer for his sake, strengthen I pray thee my weake Faith in thee, my unfained Love to thee, & make good to me all those sweet and precious Promises of the Covenant of Grace, to write thy Law in my heart and to remember my sinnes and iniquities no more. Fit me for troubles and tryalls, for sicknesse and death and for the coming of the Lord Jesus in Glory that I may be found among the wise Virgins and be counted worthy in Christ to receive the Kingdome prepared for thine Elect before the foundation of the world was laid.

4. Be Mercifull to Church and people in the whole world. Maintaine thy Gospell against all opposition of Hell and Antichrist according to thy Promise. Have

in hea mercy upon this Land of my Nativity, pre-  
 le and serve truth and peace amongst us and do  
 it, tha good to all that are true 'of heart whether  
 ell th they be my Superiours, Equalls or Inferi-  
 rt, and ours, and those that are Enemies the Lord  
 pittie them and forgive them. Be Gracious  
 ch oc to the place and family where I live, O  
 temp suffer not sinne to raigne in this place, pittie  
 vaine all those of our Neighbours or Kinsfolks,  
 d are that are carnall and unconverted, Oh turne  
 Jesu their hearts from sinne to Grace, and from  
 much the power of darknesse to God, give me a  
 nther heart to pray for them, and to watch and  
 y un take all opportunities to win them by my  
 o me good example and those that are conver-  
 es of ted keep them & me O Lord by thy power  
 Law through Faith unto Salvation to the end  
 innes and in the end.

rou- 5. Blessè the Ministry of thy Word,  
 leath and all holy Ordinances to me and to all  
 as in thine, let thy Word be my delight, and my  
 the Councillor in all things, what I know not,  
 in Lord teach thou mee, that I may be built  
 are up daily in saving knowledge and in grace.

a of 6. Now blessed be the Lord for all the  
 many testimonies of his love to mee, for  
 peo- my health and strength, daily preservati-  
 thy on, and manifold deliverances, but above  
 and all, for thy free grace, and everlasting love  
 ave in Jesus Christ to mee and to all thine E-  
 lect

lest, for bringing mee to the knowledge of Christ, and for the many opportunities of Grace, O Lord enable me to make a blessed use of all, that I may not give thee just cause to repent of all the good, thou doest for me daily.

Preserve and keep me and this place this { Day } from all evill, command thy Holy Angells to pitch their Tents about us, oh let me find grace in thy sight, pray thee, for thy favour is better then life it selfe. Heare me and answer mee, and do more for mee, then I can aske or think of and all for Jesus Christ's sake, my dearest Saviour and only Mediator. In whose holy Name and Words I say; *Our Father which art &c.*

FINIS.

